

## Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 DODE-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 EB-07 PRS-01 L-03

AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 CIEP-01 STR-04 LAB-04

SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /091 W

----- 115286

R 151740Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5191

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L 09248

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, BE

SUBJECT: TINDEMANS' WISEWAM REPORT

REF: BRUSSELS 8907

1. WE RECENTLY TALKED TO VAN DAMME, THE MAN IN TINDEMANS  
CABINET PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING THE FIRST  
DRAFT OF TINDEMANS' REPORT. VAN DAMME GAVE US SOME ADDITIONAL  
INSIGHTS INTO TINDEMANS' TALKS IN BONN AND ROME.

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2. VAN DAMME SAID THAT SCHMIDT FAVORED STRENGTHENING THE EC INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE COMMISSION. VAN DAMME FOUND THIS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF SCHMIDT'S REPEATED CRITICISM OF THE COMMISSION. WHEN TINDEMANS WAS IN BONN, SCHMIDT DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF APPOINTING A EUROPEAN STATESMAN AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION WITHOUT REGARD TO NATIONALITY AND ALLOW HIM FREEDOM TO CHOOSE HIS COLLEAGUES SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF THEIR ABILITY AND INFLUENCE. VAN DAMME SAID THAT THIS SOUNDED NICE BUT WAS INCONSISTENT WITH SENDING BOERNER TO THE COMMISSION.

3. ACCORDING TO VAN DAMME, SCHMIDT WANTS TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE RUEOPEAN COUNCIL. SCHMIDT THOUGHT THAT THE MEETINGS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL SHOULD BE LIMITED TO MINISTERS. THIS WOULD FORCE THE MINISTERS TO STUDY THE FILES AND FACE UP TO THE ISSUES. WHAT HAPPENS NOW, SCHMIDT SAID, IS THAT EXPERTS ARGUE WITH EXPERTS IN THE PRESENCE OF MINISTERS, WHO ARE OFTEN PASSIVE.

4. VAN DAMME SAID THAT TINDEMANS HAD EXPECTED HIS VISIT TO ROME TO BE UNEVENTLFUL AND INSIGNIFICANT. HE WAS WRONG. TINDEMANS FOUND THE ITALIANS TO BE AGGRESSIVELY PRO-EUROPEAN. THE ITALIANS SAW EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AS THE ONLY WAY OUT FOR ITALY. EVEN BERLINGUER WAS NOT OVERTLY NEGATIVE. VAN DAMME SAID BERLINGUER WAS THE MOST IMPRESSIVE PERSON THEY TALKED TO IN ITALY.

5. IN ROME THERE WAS CONDIDERABLE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE DIRECT ELECTION OF A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. THE ITALIANS WERE IN FAVOR AND ADVOCATE A BICAMERAL PARLIAMENT. VAN DAMME SAID THAT HE HAD DOUBTS ABOUT THE MERITS OF THIS SUGGESTION, ARTUING THAT THERE WAS NO POLITICAL REASON FOR CREATING SUCH AN AWKWARD INSTITUTION.

6. VAN DAMME SAID THAT TINDEMANS WAS STILL CONSIDERING WHAT TO RECOMMEND REGARDING THE POWERS TO BE GIVEN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PARLIAMENT. VAN DAMME ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POWERS OF TAXATION OF THE STATES AND LOCAL ENTITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

7. VAN DAMME ELABORATED ON TINDEMANS' THOUGHTS ON THE TIMING OF HIS REPORT. TINDEMANS' CURRGNT THINKING IS THAT HE WILL PRESENT HIS REPORT SOMETIME IN JANUARY, 1976, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT IT WOULD BE

CONSIDERED AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN FEBRUARY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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